DAVITA SETTLES KICKBACK CLAIMS FOR $63.7 MILLION »8A

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PARTY-LINE VOTE

FCC ends "net neutrality"

Challenges could come from lawsuits, Congress

By Barbara Ortutay and Tali Arbel
The Associated Press

The Federal Communications Commission repealed the Obama-era "net neutrality" rules Thursday, giving internet service providers such as Verizon, Comcast and AT&T a free hand to slow or block websites and apps as they see fit or charge more for faster speeds.

In a straight party-line vote of 3-2, the Republican-controlled FCC junked the longtime principle that said all web traffic must be treated equally. The move represents a radical departure from more than a decade of federal oversight.

The big telecommunications companies had lobbied hard to overturn the rules, contending they are heavy-handed and discourage investment in broadband networks.

"What is the FCC doing today?" asked FCC chairman Ajit Pai, a Republican. "Quite simply, we are restoring the light-touch framework that has governed the internet for most of its existence."

The push to eliminate net neutrality has stirred fears among consumer advocates, Democrats, many web companies and ordinary Americans afraid that the cable and phone giants will be able to control what people see and do online. But the broadband

FCC » 10A

RUSSIA PROBE

Panel's focus turns to future

By Mary Clare Jalonick
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON» With no firm conclusions yet on whether President Donald Trump's campaign may have coordinated with Russia, the Senate intelligence committee could delay answering that question and issue more bipartisan recommendations early next year on protecting future elections from foreign tampering.

Recommendations on how to counter the threat from attempted election hackers could be the first written product from congressional committees examining Russian interference into the 2016 election that put Trump in the White House. An early bipartisan report could be an attempt to boost confidence in the panel's probe, as lawmakers worry that other issues could be lost if they are not able to agree on the most anticipated questions, such as collusion.

A new poll by the Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research shows more than half of Americans have expressed skepticism about multiple congressional investigations, with just 13 percent saying they're very or extremely confident they will be fair and impartial.

PROBE » 12A

STAR WARS PREMIERE: "THE LAST JEDI"

"Sith lord" Terra Larkin uses the force to celebrate the opening of "The Last Jedi" on Thursday night at the Alamo Drafthouse Cinema in Denver. *Hyoung Chang, The Denver Post*

A long time ago in a culture far, far away

By Danika Worthington *The Denver Post*

Patrick Gillies was an 11-year-old science fiction lover living in a medium-sized town in Texas when the first Star Wars movie opened in 1977.

He and his brother were swept up in the hype. Even though there weren't sure what the film was about, they knew they needed to see it. The boys begged and begged their grandmother to take them until she acquiesced, taking off work.

"When we got to the theater, and there was a line, she didn't know how to process that," he recalled. "She had never experienced that — people would stand in line to see a movie?"

But they waited. And when the film ended, Gillies remembers experiencing an audience applaud for the first time.

For fans like Gillies — now a member of local Star Wars costuming groups 501st Legion, Rebel Legion and Mandalorian Mercs — Star Wars was a phenomenon.

It ushered in a new era of movies, one of summer blockbusters and franchises powerful enough that people waited in lines, returning again and again, because they couldn't catch the movie on cable or VHS six months later. Standing in line was not only a necessity but a gamble — people didn't know if they would get in.

Star Wars also helped create the fandom culture, which, 40 years later, with the release of "Star Wars: Episode VIII — The Last Jedi," is helping to revive the communal spirit of movie

STAR WARS » 7A

SEXUAL HARASSMENT

Experts: Change, not policy, key to addressing issue

By Brian Eason and Jesse Paul
The Denver Post

Weeks after a series of sexual harassment allegations roiled the state Capitol, top Colorado lawmakers will meet Friday to review a workplace policy that — in the minds of experts and some alleged victims — may be doing as much to perpetuate a culture of harassment as to prevent it.

The questions come amid a growing national reckoning that has toppled giants in Hollywood, the media and Congress and left at least four Colorado state lawmakers accused of making unwanted sexual advances by colleagues, aides and lobbyists.

Employers across the U.S., from the private sector to the state's Gold Dome, are looking at how to best respond to and prevent future cases. In Colorado, that has meant shining a spotlight on a complaint process at the legislature that received little public attention until last month.

In interviews with The Denver Post, experts in harassment law and human resources offered mixed reviews of the state's policy, saying it has both strengths and weaknesses. But ultimately, some of the experts said, the underlying culture in a building where lobbyists and public employees interact on a daily basis with men and women of power may be even more important

POLICY » 5A

WIN STREAK! OSWEILER LIFTS BRONCOS

Things appear bleak when Denver quarterback Trevor Siemian is injured at Indianapolis, but Brock Osweiler stands tall in a 25-13 Broncos win. »1B

Disney buys some of Fox. Disney is buying a large part of Fox, including its movie and television studios, in a $52.4 billion deal. »8A

The best movie lines of 2017. Sometimes, it just takes to look to convey a movie's meaning. But more often, it's a word or two. A film critic reveals his 10 memorable bits of dialogue from 2017's films. »1C

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